

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 123-2004



To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: May 24, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

Subject: **42ND STREET PROJECT STATUS**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jorge", written over the "From:" line.

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
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The 42nd Street Streetscape project was designed to upgrade and beautify a three block area of 42nd Street from Prairie Avenue to Pine Tree Drive. The project scope consisted of milling, re-paving and striping the street surface, grading and sodding swale areas on the north side, constructing a number of decorative planters and traffic calming bulb-outs, installing new shrubs and trees, and bringing sidewalk ramps into compliance with ADA requirements.

Tropex Construction Services, Inc. was the Job Order Contractor selected to perform the work on 42nd Street. Tropex began the work in November of 2003 with a scheduled completion date of January 31, 2004. They had completed the work of milling the pavement on the street when the Public Works Department requested them to stop work approximately one week into the job. The purpose of the "stop work" request was to allow for the design and installation of a replacement water pipe that was not a part of the original project scope. Between the time that work began and the time the "stop work" order was issued, it was determined that the water service in this area needed to be upgraded, and had the City waited to perform the upgrade, it would be necessary to cut the newly refurbished street within a year or two to install this new water main. To avoid having the new street broken up soon after its improvement, it was decided to halt work on the project long enough to design and install the new water main.

The City negotiated a contract with an engineering firm to design the required water line on an expedited basis. The water main was designed, a price for installation was negotiated, and the additional work scope was permitted in less than six weeks an effort which usually takes a minimum of six months. Work on the water main began in late January 2004 and was completed by April 2004, after which the street was to be repaved, and work was to resume on the planters and landscape portions as originally planned.

The original contract was to have lasted approximately ninety days to substantial completion, plus thirty days to final completion. The addition of the water pipe replacement added approximately ninety additional days to the contract period, plus the additional time necessary to design the pipe, obtain regulatory approval and negotiate the cost of the revision to the original contract. Hence the project was expected to be substantially complete by the fourth week of May, after the addition of the pipe scope of work. There were some minor delays due to unforeseen conditions encountered in the existing piping system.

The water main has now been installed; pressure tested, sterilized, and flushed out, in preparation for being placed in service. The Florida Department of Health required that the contractor submit an application signed and sealed by a Registered Professional Engineer, containing test reports certifying that the pipe has passed pressure tests, that the water meets acceptable health standards, and that the installation is built substantially in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. The pipe also has to be accepted by the City's Public Works Department for operation and maintenance. These documents and the prerequisite tests took time to assemble. These were submitted by the City to the Department of Health on May 10, 2004, and final approval was issued on May 17th. The residents' water meters will be connected to the new line, and the old meter connections removed during the week of May 24th. Once this is completed, the sidewalks will be restored.

Due to the effects of exposure to weather and frequent traffic, the condition of the street surface deteriorated during the long period of exposure after milling and, as a result, our City Street Superintendent and engineering consultants have recommended that extensive preparation of the road be performed prior to repaving. This work includes replacement of portions of the road base, and re-grading and compacting of the entire base before the new pavement is installed.

The City negotiated a price for this extra work with the contractor. The work on restoring the road base began on May 20, 2004. The contractor has agreed to expedite this work by working weekends for the next three weeks.

The contractor will continue regular watering of the street, usually twice daily to reduce the amount of dust being released into the air. We understand that there have been times when the watering was not as regular or routine. We are taking steps to correct this situation and monitoring the process closely.

The issue of dust intrusion at North Beach Elementary School as depicted in the recent Channel 7 news report is not entirely accurate. In fact, during the City's monitoring, dust presence has not been as extensive or as frequent as the reports seem to indicate. The minerals identified in the lab tests conducted by Channel 7 are commonly found in soils throughout our area, except for gypsum which was found inside the school, but was not present in the road bed. There has been extensive construction at this school recently and some of the dust encountered at the locations noted in the report may come from other construction sources. Nonetheless, at the request of concerned parents, the City has hired a testing firm to conduct air quality tests throughout the project area. Preliminary reports have been received and results of the tests will be available by the May 24th Community Meeting. We have also asked the school system to conduct similar tests inside the school to better gauge any intrusion of dust into the HVAC system and the school itself.

Traffic control has been very difficult, throughout the project in spite of the Management of Traffic (MOT) plan. Even though the street has had one-way traffic for many years, drivers were traveling in both directions through the construction zone. As a result, the City has

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now modified the MOT for the duration of the project by closing 42nd Street to through traffic, allowing local traffic only, this should reduce the impact on the community. One travel lane will be paved during the week of May 24th and opened to traffic.

A meeting was conducted by the school PTA which the City attended on Monday, May 17, 2004. The City addressed questions and committed to undertake some immediate corrective measures.

The attached memo indicates those efforts undertaken by the City as well as an updated and expedited construction schedule. These points will be discussed with the PTA and the general community in a special meeting on Monday, May 24, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. A copy of the meeting notice is also attached.


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Attachments

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Capital Improvement Projects Office
Memorandum

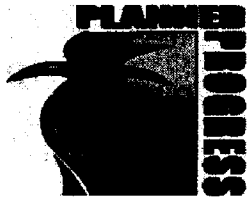


To: Neighborhood Residents and North Beach Elementary Parents

Date: May 21, 2004

Subject: 42nd Street Construction Update

- 42nd Street from Pine Tree Drive to Prairie Avenue has been closed to through traffic, and is marked for local traffic only. Unfinished portions of the street will remain closed until it is fully repaved.
- Additional signage and barricades have been placed to ensure pedestrian and vehicular safety.
- The schedule for watering the street to mitigate dust has been adjusted, as requested, to better coordinate with school drop-off and pick-up times. The current schedule requires watering at 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. A City inspector has been assigned to be on site each day at these times to ensure that watering is performed properly.
- The City hired an independent testing firm to perform several air quality tests around the project area and the school. The tests were performed on May 18th, and the results will be available next week. In addition, the City has requested authorization to perform air quality testing within the school.
- The State Department of Health issued a Notice of Clearance for the water main on May 17th. The water meters along 42nd street will be connected to the new water main next week.
- The Contractor has been given authorization to work Saturdays and Sundays for the next three weekends to expedite project completion. This allowance will accelerate the progress of work by one week.
- Restoration of the road base began on May 19th, in preparation for paving. One lane of traffic from Pine Tree Drive to Prairie Avenue will be paved next week. This will allow one lane to be reopened to traffic until the rest of the road base is restored and final asphalt is applied. Final paving will begin in the week of June 7th and will be completed by June 16th.
- The above ground enhancements, primarily landscaping, will be undertaken after the paving is completed, and the normal traffic pattern is resumed on the street.
- A public meeting has been scheduled for Monday, May 24th, 2004 at 6:00PM at City Hall, 1st floor conference room.
- For more information, please contact Ronnie Singer, Community Information Manager at (305) 673-7071.



42ND STREET CONSTRUCTION, PAVING & BEAUTIFICATION TIMELINE TO BE DISCUSSED

JOIN CITY OFFICIALS

**Monday, May 24, 2004
4th Floor – City Manager's Office
City Hall
1700 Convention Center Drive
6:00 PM**

**For more information, please contact the CIP
Community Information Manager at 305-673-7071.**

**Call Capital Improvement Projects Office at 305-673-7071 (voice), or if hearing impaired, call the
Florida Relay Service (800-955-8771) (TTY) to request this publication in accessible format; to
request sign language interpreters (Five days in advance, if possible); or to request information on
access for persons with disabilities.**



CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

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www.miamibeachfl.gov



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS OFFICE

Telephone 305 673-7071
Facsimile 305 673-7073

May 20, 2004

Ms. Maria Costa, Assistant Principal
North Beach Elementary School
4100 Prairie Avenue
Miami Beach, FL 33140

Via Facsimile 305-674-8425 and U.S. Mail

Dear Ms. Costa,

It was a pleasure meeting you at the Emergency PTA Meeting held on Monday morning. I appreciate your efforts to maintain order and decorum.

As you are aware we have initiated a number of activities in an effort to calm parents concerns regarding construction work on 42nd Street. One of those initiatives is the Air Quality testing which was requested by the group and has now been done; we are awaiting test results. To further this effort, the City of Miami Beach is asking that we be able to test the air quality within the school as well. (Of course, we will absorb all associated expenses). Please let me know how quickly we can gain access to school property in order to perform said test. Your assistance is greatly appreciated in expediting this request.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Singer
Community Information Manager

RS/gd

C. Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager
✓ Robert Middaugh, Assistant City Manager
Tim Hemstreet, Capital Improvement Projects Director